

LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE: **August 9, 2005, Work Session**

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 1

CONSENT:

REGULAR: **X**

CLOSED SESSION:
(Confidential)

ACTION:

INFORMATION: **X**

ITEM TITLE: **Proposals for Enrolling Non-Resident Students in Lynchburg City Schools**

RECOMMENDATION: Provide input to Schools representatives on this issue.

SUMMARY: The attached memorandum from the Schools Superintendent provides the relevant information. Schools representatives will attend Council's work session to answer questions and receive feedback.

PRIOR ACTION(S): None

FISCAL IMPACT: As noted in the memorandum.

CONTACT(S): Dr. McKendrick

ATTACHMENT(S): Memo from Dr. McKendrick to the City Manager

REVIEWED BY: lkp

TO: L. Kimball Payne, III, City Manager

FROM: Paul McKendrick, Superintendent

DATE: August 3, 2005

SUBJECT: Proposals for Enrolling Non-Resident Students

On several occasions the school administration and the Lynchburg City School Board have discussed concerns about how we have experienced decreases in our student enrollment every year. On average, for the last three to four years, we have lost approximately 100 to 125 students each year. While we cannot point to one variable as being the major factor for this decrease each year, we believe that we should consider taking more aggressive steps toward easing that decrease and hopefully posting gains in student enrollment.

From one of those discussions came the idea of apprising Lynchburg City Council of our intentions, with regard to possible changes in the enrollment procedures for students who live outside of the city. We thought this important, because one of the results could be attracting tuition-paying students from outside of the city limits. And there could be arguments against such a strategy since the parents live outside of the city but would be enjoying the benefits of our school system, especially our high schools.

I should note also that the school board has informally agreed in principle to this concept. However, the school board has held neither formal discussions nor votes this year about the concept.

In essence, then, the school administration and the school board have discussed the implementation of the following strategies/options relative to the aforementioned. Implementation could include one or a combination of the following:

- Allowing LCS staff who live outside of the city to enroll their children at city schools. Staff would pay a reduced tuition rate. We have not determined that rate.

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- Allowing LCS staff with children in secondary schools to enroll their children in city schools, at a reduced tuition rate.
- Allowing students from county schools to attend LCS' secondary schools. These students would pay full tuition.
- Offering a different tuition rate for parents who would enroll more than one child.

This approach holds both benefits and potential concerns for the school division. Benefits would include, of course, an increase in our school populations. And with that increase would be an increase in funding from the state, for we receive allocations based on student enrollment. Then, too, potential concerns would be those relative to space and the hiring of additional staff. We could possibly control and limit most of the issues related to space, for example, by limiting enrollments at schools and by limiting the enrollment of students into particular programs.

I hope that this information helps as you and the city council discusses this matter. If I can be of further assistance, even if you should need my appearance before the council, please do not hesitate in calling me.

Thank you very much for your continued assistance and cooperation.

PM/wls